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N9RIMENC
     UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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     SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
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     UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
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                                              23 Cr. 490 (SHS)
                V.
     ROBERT MENENDEZ,
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     NADINE MENENDEZ,
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     JOSE URIBE, and
                                             Arraignment
     FRED DAIBES
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                   Defendants.
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                                              New York, N.Y.
                                              September 27, 2023
                                              11:30 a.m.
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     Before:
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                            HON. ONA T. WANG,
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                                              U.S. Magistrate Judge
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                               APPEARANCES
15
     DAMIAN WILLIAMS
          United States Attorney for the
16
          Southern District of New York
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     DANIEL RICHENTHAL
     ELI J. MARK
     LARA ELIZABETH POMERANTZ
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     PAUL MICHAEL MONTELEONI
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          Assistant United States Attorneys
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N9RIMENC 1 APPEARANCES CONTINUED 2 WINSTON & STRAWN LLP 3 Attorneys for Defendant Robert Menendez 4 BY: SETH FARBER DAVID KOLANSKY 5 6 SCHERTLER ONORATO MEAD & SEARS LLP Attorneys for Defendant Nadine Menendez 7 BY: DAVID SCHERTLER DANNY ONORATO 8 9 KRIEGER KIM & LEWIN LLP Attorneys for Defendant Jose Uribe 10 BY: PAUL KREIGER ARLEO & DONOHUE 11 Attorneys for Defendant Fred Daibes 12 BY: TIMOTHY M. DONOHUE ROBERTO FINZI 13 14 Also Present: 15 TAELOR NISBETH, Pretrial Services Officer STEPHEN BOOSE, Pretrial Services Officer 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

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(case called)

MR. MARK: Good morning, your Honor. Eli Mark on behalf of the government. With me at counsel's table are my colleagues Daniel Richenthal, Paul Monteleoni, and Lara Pomerantz.

THE COURT: Good morning.

MR. FARBER: Good morning, your Honor. Seth Farber and David Kolansky from Winston & Strawn for the defendant Senator Menendez for this appearance only.

THE COURT: Good morning.

MR. ONORATO: Good morning, your Honor, Danny Onorato on behalf of Nadine Menendez. Also with me at counsel's table is my colleague, David Schertler.

THE COURT: Good morning.

MR. KRIEGER: Paul Krieger of Krieger Kim & Lewin on behalf of Mr. Uribe.

THE COURT: Good morning. Good morning, Mr. Uribe.

MR. DONOHUE: Good morning, your Honor. Tim Donohue of Arleo & Donohue, West Orange, New Jersey on behalf of Fred Daibes present in court to my right. Also with me is my co-counsel who will introduce himself.

MR. FINZI: Roberto Finzi, your Honor.

THE COURT: Good morning.

MR. FINZI: Good morning.

THE COURT: All right. I am going to confirm very

1	quickly: Everybody here can speak and understand English and
2	does not need an interpreter; right?
3	MR. DONOHUE: Correct.
4	THE COURT: All right.
5	Mr. Mark or one of your colleagues, can I have the
6	time and dates of arrest or surrender?
7	MR. MARK: All of the defendants surrendered pursuant
8	to the summons this morning.
9	THE COURT: All right. Good morning, everyone. I am
10	Judge Wang. You are here because you are charged with certain
11	crimes by an indictment. I am going to go down in order. When
12	I ask questions, I am going to ask them of Senator Menendez
13	first and his counsel, then Ms. Menendez, then Mr. Uribe and
14	then Mr. Daibes.
15	Senator Menendez and counsel, do you have a copy of
16	the indictment?
17	MR. FARBER: Yes, we do your Honor.
18	THE COURT: Ms. Menendez and counsel, do you have a
19	copy of the indictment?
20	MR. ONORATO: Yes, your Honor.
21	THE COURT: Mr. Uribe and counsel, do you have a copy
22	of the indictment?
23	MR. KRIEGER: We do, your Honor.
24	THE COURT: And Mr. Daibes and counsel?

MR. FINZI: We do, your Honor.

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THE COURT: The purpose of today's proceedings is to advise you of certain rights that you have, inform you of the charges against you, consider whether counsel should be appointed for you, or at least advise you of the right to counsel, and decide under what conditions, if any, you shall be released pending trial.

I am now going to explain certain constitutional rights that you have. You have the right to remain silent. You are not required to make any statements. Even if you have already made statements to the authorities, you do not need to make any further statements. Any statements that you do make can be used against you. You have the right to be released, either conditionally or unconditionally, pending trial unless I find that there are no conditions that would reasonably assure your presence at future court appearances and the safety of the community. If you are not a United States citizen, you have the right to request that a government attorney or a law enforcement official notify a consular officer from your country of origin that you have been arrested. In some cases, a treaty or other agreement may require the United States government to give that notice whether you request it or not. You have the right to be represented by an attorney during all court proceedings, including this one, and during all questioning by the authorities. And you have the right to hire your own attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, I can

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1 appoint one to represent you. 2 Starting with Senator Menendez, do you understand your rights as I have just explained them? 3 4 DEFENDANT ROBERT MENENDEZ: Yes, your Honor. 5 THE COURT: Ms. Menendez, do you understand your rights as I have just explained them? 6 7 DEFENDANT NADINE MENENDEZ: Yes, your Honor. THE COURT: Mr. Uribe, do you understand your rights 8 as I have just explained them? 9 10 DEFENDANT URIBE: Yes, your Honor. 11 THE COURT: Mr. Daibes, do you understand your rights 12 as I have just explained them? 13 DEFENDANT DAIBES: Yes, your Honor. THE COURT: All right. I am recognizing that all of 14 15 the defendants here have retained counsel, so we do not need to go through the appointment of counsel process. I am now going 16 17 to summarize the charges. I understand, Mr. Mark, that we are here for 18 19 arraignment as well; is that right?

MR. MARK: Yes, your Honor. Judge Stein has referred this for arraignment as well.

THE COURT: All right. I am going to summarize the charges and then I am going to go through and proceed with arraignment defendant by defendant in the same order.

The grand jury of the Southern District of New York

has returned an indictment against each of you charging you with certain offenses. They are as follows: Count One is conspiracy to commit bribery, 18 U.S.C. 371. That is charged against all of the defendants who are present here today.

Count 2 is conspiracy to commit honest services fraud, 18 U.S.C. Section 1349. That is also charged against all of the defendants present today.

And lastly, Count Three, conspiracy to commit extortion under color of official right, 18 United States Code 1951. That is charged against Senator Menendez and Ms. Menendez.

I am going to start with Senator Menendez's counsel.

Counsel, have you received a copy of the indictment, and have you reviewed it with your client?

MR. FARBER: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Senator Menendez, do you understand the charges that you face?

DEFENDANT ROBERT MENENDEZ: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Counselor, does your client waive the detailed reading of the indictment?

MR. FARBER: Yes, we do, your Honor.

THE COURT: Are you prepared to enter a plea to the indictment at this time?

MR. FARBER: We ask you to enter a plea of not guilty, your Honor.

1	THE COURT: All right.
2	Ms. Menendez and counsel. Counsel, have you received
3	a copy of the indictment?
4	MR. ONORATO: Yes, your Honor.
5	THE COURT: Have you reviewed it with your client?
6	MR. ONORATO: Yes, your Honor.
7	THE COURT: Ms. Menendez, do you understand the
8	charges that you face?
9	DEFENDANT NADINE MENENDEZ: Yes, your Honor.
10	THE COURT: And counselor, does your client waive the
11	detailed reading of the indictment?
12	MR. ONORATO: Yes, your Honor.
13	THE COURT: Are you prepared to enter a plea at this
14	time?
15	MR. ONORATO: Yes, your Honor. We enter a plea of not
16	guilty.
17	THE COURT: On to Mr. Uribe and counsel.
18	Mr. Krieger, have you received a copy of the
19	indictment, and have you reviewed it with your client?
20	MR. KRIEGER: Yes, your Honor, and yes.
21	THE COURT: Mr. Uribe, do you understand the charges
22	that you face?
23	DEFENDANT URIBE: Yes, your Honor.
24	THE COURT: Counsel, does your client waive a detailed
25	reading of the indictment?

1	MR. KRIEGER: He does, Judge.
2	THE COURT: Mr. Uribe, are you prepared to enter a
3	plea to the indictment at this time?
4	DEFENDANT URIBE: Yes, your Honor.
5	THE COURT: What is that plea?
6	MR. KRIEGER: He enters a plea of not guilty, Judge.
7	THE COURT: Not guilty, all right.
8	Lastly, Mr. Daibes and counsel, Counsel, have you
9	received a copy of the indictment, and have you reviewed it
10	with your client?
11	MR. FINZI: I have, your Honor. We waive its public
12	reading.
13	THE COURT: Mr. Daibes, do you understand the charges
14	that you face?
15	DEFENDANT DAIBES: Yes, your Honor.
16	THE COURT: Then are you prepared to enter a plea to
17	the indictment at this time?
18	DEFENDANT DAIBES: Yes. Not guilty.
19	THE COURT: All right. The plea of not guilty will be
20	entered. The record should reflect that the defendants are all
21	now arraigned.
22	Has Judge Stein set a conference date?
23	MR. MARK: Yes. Judge Stein set an initial conference
24	date for October 2 at 2:30 p.m. in the afternoon.
25	THE COURT: OK. Is there any exclusion of time

necessary until then?

MR. MARK: The government would request that time be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act until that date. The government respectfully submits exclusion would be in the interest of justice in order to allow the parties to discuss a protective order and initial discovery productions as well as issues regarding the case and preparation for the initial conference.

THE COURT: OK. Any objection from defense counsel?

MR. FARBER: Not on behalf of Senator Menendez.

MR. ONORATO: No, your Honor.

MR. KRIEGER: No, your Honor.

MR. FINZI: No, Judge.

THE COURT: I grant the exclusion of time under the Speedy Trial Act to October 2 because I find that the means of justice outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendants in a speedy trial based upon the need for the government to prepare for the conference, address issues in preparation for the conference, to get a protective order in place so that they can begin preparing initial discovery and disclosures.

All right. Have the parties discussed conditions of release?

MR. MARK: Yes. The government has discussed conditions of release with each of the defendant's counsel and

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have submitted to the Court's deputy proposed bail packages for each defendant.

THE COURT: Why don't we start with each defendant in the order as we have been going. Then after that, if accepted, I will accept each of them and then give the warnings together.

Go ahead.

So, starting with Robert Menendez, agreed MR. MARK: conditions of release which include \$100,000 personal recognizance bond, pretrial supervision as directed. There are then additional conditions of Surrender personal passports but not any official passport and travel documents to pretrial services and no new applications for travel documents. Foreign travel is permitted but only for official business with prior notice to pretrial services. Otherwise, travel is restricted to the United States. No contact with co-defendants except for his wife, any witnesses identified by the government other than the Senator's staff, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff or political advisers or individuals identified in the indictment outside the presence of counsel. No contact with individuals on the Senator's staff, SRFC staff, or political advisers who have personal knowledge of the facts the case about the facts of the case outside of the presence of counsel. The defendant would be released on his own signature as well as the surrender of personal passport.

THE COURT: All right. And there are no other

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conditions that need to be met at a later date; right?

MR. MARK: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Anything to add to that, Counsel?

MR. FARBER: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Based upon my review of the indictment, the pretrial services report and agreement of counsel, I accept the recommendation.

Senator Menendez will be released on his own signature today with the surrender of his personal passport and under the following conditions: \$100,000 personal recognizance bond, pretrial supervision as directed, he is to surrender his personal passports, but not any official passport, and such travel documents to pretrial services, make no new applications for travel documents. Foreign travel is permitted only for official business with prior notice to pretrial services. Otherwise, travel is restricted to the United States. He is to have no contact with co-defendants except for his wife, no contact with any witnesses identified by the government other than the Senator's staff, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff or political advisers or individuals identified in the indictment outside of the presence of counsel. He is to have no contact with individuals on the Senator's staff, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, or political advisers who have personal knowledge of the facts of the case about the facts of the case outside of the presence of counsel.

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All right. Did I miss anything or misspeak?

MR. MARK: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Let's turn next to

Ms. Menendez.

MR. MARK: So the agreed upon conditions of release are the following -- I should say the proposed agreed upon conditions of release are the following: \$250,000 personal recognizance bond secured by the defendant's personal residence in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, travel restricted to the Southern District of New York, Eastern District of New York, the District of New Jersey, the District of Columbia and points in between, as well as the Southern District of Florida to see family, temporary additional travel upon consent of the government and approval of pretrial services, surrender of travel documents and no new applications to be made, pretrial supervision as directed by pretrial services, and to have no contact with co-defendants, except for the defendant's spouse, or witnesses outside the presence of counsel, and the defendant will be released on her own signature and the surrender of her personal passport with remaining conditions to be met by October 11, which is two weeks from today.

THE COURT: Anything else to add?

MR. ONORATO: Your Honor, the only other things your Honor with respect to the security, I think we have agreed to a two-week period to get that accomplished. Other than that --

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THE COURT: Right. That is October 11; right? Two weeks from now.

MR. ONORATO: Yes.

THE COURT: Based upon my review of the indictment, the pretrial services report for Ms. Menendez, and the agreement of counsel, I accept the recommendation. Ms. Menendez will be released on the following conditions, and she can be released today on her own signature and surrender of the passport with remaining conditions to be met two weeks from today, that's October 11. These are the conditions: \$250,000 personal recognizance bond secured by her personal residence in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. Travel is restricted to the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, the District of New Jersey and the District of DC and points in between, as well as the Southern District of Florida to see family. Temporary additional travel is possible upon consent of the government and approval of pretrial services. As I said already, I think, Ms. Menendez is to surrender all travel documents and make no new applications, pretrial supervision as directed by pretrial services, and no contact with co-defendants, except her spouse, or witnesses outside the presence of counsel.

All right. Did I miss anything or does anything need clarification?

MR. MARK: No, your Honor.

MR. ONORATO: Thank you, your Honor. No.

THE COURT: Thank you. Let's turn next to Mr. Uribe.

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As to Mr. Uribe, the proposed agreed upon MR. MARK: conditions of release are the following: \$1 million personal recognizance bond secured by his personal residence in Clifton, New Jersey, travel restricted to the Southern District New York, the Eastern District of New York, the District of New Jersey, and the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He must surrender travel documents and make no new applications, pretrial supervision as directed by pretrial services, the defendant not to possess any firearms, destructive device, or other weapon, additional conditions of no contact with co-defendants and witnesses he does business with regarding the case, except in the presence of counsel, and that he have no contact with any other co-defendants or other witnesses outside of the presence of counsel. The defendant could be released on his own signature and the surrender of his personal passport with the remaining conditions to be met in two weeks, which is October 11. THE COURT: All right. Anything to add to that, Counsel? MR. KRIEGER: No, your Honor. THE COURT: Based upon my review of the indictment, Mr. Uribe's pretrial services report, and the agreement of

counsel, I accept the recommendation. The agreed conditions of

release shall be: \$1 million personal recognizance bond

secured by defendant's personal residence in Clifton, New
Jersey, travel restricted to the Southern and Eastern Districts
of New York, the District of New Jersey, and the Eastern
District of Pennsylvania, he is to surrender all travel
documents and make no new applications, pretrial supervision as
directed by pretrial services, he is not to possess a firearm,
destructive device, or other weapon, no contact with
co-defendants and witnesses he does business with regarding the
case, except in the presence of counsel, no contact with other
co-defendants or witnesses outside the presence of counsel, and
he may be released on his own signature today plus the
surrender of personal passport with the remaining conditions to
be met by October 11, 2023, which is two weeks from today.

Did I miss anything?

MR. MARK: No, your Honor.

MR. KRIEGER: No, Judge.

THE COURT: Just a minute.

Let's turn to Mr. Daibes.

MR. MARK: Finally, with regard to Mr. Daibes, the proposed agreed upon conditions of release are the following: \$2 million personal recognizance bond to be secured by a commercial property at 500 Route 340 in Sparkill, New York, zip code 10876, travel to be restricted to the Southern District of New York, the Eastern District of New York, the District of New Jersey, and the Southern District of Florida, the defendant

surrender travel documents and make no new applications,
pretrial supervision as directed by pretrial services, the
defendant not to possess a firearm, destructive device, or
other weapon, the defendant not to have any contact with
co-defendants and witnesses he does business with regarding the
case, except in the presence of counsel, the defendant have no
contact with other co-defendants or witnesses outside the
presence of counsel. The last condition makes reference to the
fact that the defendant also has a bond in New Jersey relating
to another case which is USA v. Fred Daibes, 18 CR 655. This
condition provides that if and when the bond in that case, US
v. Fred Daibes, 18 CR 655, may be exonerated, then the monetary
conditions of that bond will continue to apply to this matter.
The monetary conditions, for the Court's reference, is a
\$10 million PRB. So, in other words, this condition provides
that the SDNY bond, this bond, would be modified to carry over
the \$10 million PRB and accompanied security from the NJ bond
if that were to be exonerated. The defendant would be released
on his own signature as well as the surrender of his personal
passport with the remaining conditions to be met in two weeks,
which is October 11.

THE COURT: All right. I just had a question. This might be for Mr. Daibes's counsel. There are no firearms to be surrendered at this time; right?

MR. FINZI: That's correct, your Honor.

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THE COURT: Have they already been surrendered?
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               MR. FINZI:
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                          They were surrendered in connection with
      the New Jersey case, your Honor.
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               THE COURT: All right. I just wanted to confirm.
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               MS. NISBETH: Your Honor, if I may.
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               THE COURT: Yes.
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               MS. NISBETH: If you could just provide verification
      to pretrial services of the surrender of the firearms.
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               THE COURT: OK. What about the -- I noticed in the
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      pretrial report about the purchase ID cards, does that need to
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      be -- was that surrendered, does that need to be surrendered,
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      does that verification need to be made to pretrial services in
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      this district?
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               MS. NISBETH: Correct. The report states he possesses
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      two firearms at his home.
               THE COURT: Counsel for Mr. Daibes?
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               MR. FINZI: My understanding, your Honor -- I think it
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     may say this in the report too -- is that there were two
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      firearms. The firearms, he's never used and received as gifts.
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      But they were transmitted or given to the son in connection
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      with the charges in New Jersey. So, my understanding is that
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      they are not in his possession. So, we will verify that.
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               THE COURT:
                          They are not with the son who lives with
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     him; is that right?
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MR. FINZI: That's correct, Judge.

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THE COURT: OK. I will add verified as additional condition, verify to pretrial services that the firearms and purchase IDs have already been given to the son as represented in the report.

All right. Anything else that I need to add or modify in this one?

MR. MARK: Not from the government.

MR. FINZI: No, your Honor.

MS. NISBETH: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Based upon my review of the indictment, the pretrial services report from Mr. Daibes, and the agreement of counsel, I accept the recommendation. Mr. Daibes will be released on the following conditions: The \$2 million personal recognizance bond secured by commercial property at 500 Route 340 in Sparkill, New York, travel is restricted to the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, the District of New Jersey, and the Southern District of Florida. He is to surrender all travel documents and make no new applications, pretrial supervision is as directed by pretrial services, he is not to possess a firearm, destructive device, or other weapon. Mr. Daibes is to have no contact with co-defendants and witnesses he does business with regarding the case, except in the presence of counsel. He is to have no contact with other co-defendants or witnesses outside of the presence of counsel. He is to verify to pretrial services in the Southern District

New York that the firearms and any purchase IDs have already been given to his son and he does not have possession of them, and that if and when the bond in the New Jersey case, that is United States of America v. Fred Daibes, 18-CR-655, if that bond is exonerated the monetary conditions of that bond will continue to apply in this matter. In other words, the Southern District New York bond will be modified to carry over the \$10 million personal recognizance bond and the accompanying security from the District of New Jersey bond. Mr. Daibes also will be released on his own signature plus surrender of personal passport. So, that can happen today with remaining conditions to be met in two weeks. That is October 11, 2023.

Did I miss anything? Does anything need clarification?

MR. MARK: No, your Honor.

MR. FINZI: No, your Honor. Thank you.

MS. NISBETH: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: I will give warnings to everybody.

If you fail to appear in court as required or if you violate any of the conditions of the release, one, a warrant will be issued for your arrest, two, you and anyone who signed your bonds will each be responsible for paying their full amounts as I indicated earlier — there are different amounts for each defendant — and three, you may be charged with the separate charge of bail jumping which can mean additional jail

time and/or a fine. In addition, if you commit a new offense while you are released, in addition to the sentence prescribed for that offense, you would be sentenced to an additional term of imprisonment of not more than ten years if the offense is a felony or not lower than one year if the offense is a misdemeanor. This term of imprisonment would be executed after any other sentence of imprisonment is completed.

While you are awaiting trial, I also must warn you not to have any contact or engage in intimidation of potential or designated witnesses or jurors, not to engage in any intimidation of any court officer, and not to engage in any conduct that would obstruct any investigation by law enforcement.

Finally, if you don't agree with any of my decisions here, you have a right to appeal them.

I am now going to give the government the Rule 5(f) warning. It is an oral order. I direct the prosecution to comply with its obligations under Brady v. Maryland and its progeny to disclose to the defense all information, whether admissible or not, that is favorable to the defendant, material either to guilt or to punishment, and known to the prosecution. Possible consequences for noncompliance may include dismissal of individual charges or the entire case, exclusion of evidence, and professional discipline or court sanctions on the attorneys responsible. I will be entering a written order more

1	fully describing this obligation and the possible consequences
2	of failing to meet it, and I direct the prosecution to review
3	and comply with that order.
4	Does the prosecution confirm that it understands its
5	obligations and will fulfill them?
6	MR. MARK: We fully understand our obligations and
7	will fulfill them, your Honor.
8	THE COURT: All right. Is there anything further we
9	need to do at this time?
10	MR. MARK: Not on behalf of the government.
11	MR. FARBER: No, your Honor.
12	MR. ONORATO: No, your Honor.
13	MR. KRIEGER: No, Judge.
14	MR. DONOHUE: No, your Honor.
15	THE COURT: Thank you very much. We are adjourned.
16	(Adjourned)
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